

SUMMARY OF ARTICLES

A Comparison of the Story of Bahrām-e Čübīne with the Tragedy of Macbeth

M.K. Yousefpoor

In this paper, the author explores the concept of human nature as viewed by Shakespeare and Ferdowsi by reflecting on the destiny of the protagonists of Macbeth and Bahram Choubineh. The two works bear many similarities: they were both written by authors who are among the greatest literary creators in the world; the material for both stories was taken from history but was changed for artistic purposes; both works were written in the mature years of the lives of their authors; both works depict the confrontation of the human soul with power. Unlike Macbeth, Bahram Choubineh is not a tragedy, but it does have rich tragic elements. The author compares the two stories in terms of the events and the characters, commenting on the strengths and weak points of each as reflected in the mirror of the other.

The Most Ancient Book of Stories about Prophets in Persian

S.A. Al-Edawud

Taj Al-ghesas is the most detailed and the most ancient book of stories about prophets written in Persian. The writer of the book is Abu Nasr Ahmad Bokhari, a fifth-century scholar. The book is the teachings of his master Jeyhani, which he has rewritten in his own style. It may be divided into three books: the first book begins with the story of creation of Adam, and ends with the story of Jacob. The second book contains the story of Joseph. The third book begins with the story of

Moses and ends in the tragedy of Ashoora. We don't know much about the lives of the writers of the book but there is no doubt that it was written in the year 475. There are several manuscripts of the book in Islam Abad, London and Tashkent. There is also another manuscript in the Majlis Library. But these manuscripts are fairly recent, considerably changed by scribes. The oldest and the most reliable manuscript is the one kept in the library of the Center for Research under number 4040. The style of this manuscript closely resembles that of *Tafsir-e Soor'ābādi* and *Tarjome-ye Tafsir-e Tabari*.

Contemporary Critical Approaches: Cultural Studies

H. PAYANDEH

In its general sense, "cultural studies" refers to an investigation or analysis of culture; however, in a more specialized sense, it refers to a certain method of research on culture first propounded by Raymond Williams and Richard Hoggart in the late 1950s and early 1960s at the Birmingham Center for Contemporary Cultural Studies. The approach adopted by the center was distinguished by its interdisciplinary nature, combining a range of approaches including feminism, Marxism and semiotics. In the first section of the paper, the author provides an account of the formation of cultural studies and proceeds to answer the question: What is the contribution of literary criticism to cultural studies? In the second section, considering the general trend in cultural studies to reach beyond the conventional boundaries between the high and popular art, the author analyses two Iranian television commercials, drawing on psychoanalytical, sociological and semiotic concepts. The author also argues that an analogy can be drawn between TV commercials and the short short story genre.

Position of Persian in the Modern World of Information Technology

M. Assi

The modern era is variously referred to as "the age of information explosion", "the epoch of the third wave of world changes", "age of informatics revolution", and "era of information technology". We are floating in an electronic and computerized space. What should we do to keep ourselves alive in this space,

and to keep abreast with others? What is the position of our language and culture? What are the roles of language planners and linguists? These are some of the questions addressed in this paper.

A Study of the Word ‘eye’ in Persian and Arabic Literature

Maryam Jalāli

In this paper the writer discusses the usage of the word *ʿayn* (the eye) in Arabic and Persian literatures. The writer argues that the usage of the word in Persian has been affected by its usage in Arabic literature, particularly in cases where the word describes the color and expression of the eye.

Colloquial Elements in the Sonnets of Ḥāfīz

M.A. ATASHOWDA

This paper deals with the effects of the colloquial Persian on the sonnets of Ḥāfīz. To do so, the writer, having presented an introduction on the meaning of the colloquial language and the relation between colloquial language and the literary language, has traced colloquial elements in the sonnets of Ḥāfīz.